

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The following items were added to the agenda:

Item 11.4 Correspondence from St. Bernadette School Council

Item 12 Open Question

<p># 16/08</p>	<p><i>Moved by: E. Viana</i> <i>Seconded by: R. Palmieri</i></p>	<p>CARRIED</p>
<p>RESOLVED, that the agenda be approved as amended.</p>		

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

4.1 **Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Timothy Catholic Elementary Schools – School Boundary Review Committee’s Final Report**

G. Corbacio introduced members of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Timothy Catholic Elementary Schools - School Boundary Review Committee and commented that the intent of the presentation is to provide a summary of the Committee’s activities since the presentation to the Board of their Interim Report, specifically the responses from the community to three boundary options presented at the open house public information session. He reported that the final recommendation is presented as determined by the Committee. Trustees were informed that the community has been advised of the final recommendation and the process involved for delegating to the Board. The community is also aware that the Board of Trustees will be making its final decision at the January 15th Board meeting.

Mr. G. Dephoure, parent representative on the Committee, acknowledged the work ethic and collegial atmosphere that took place during the process as well as the excellent support of Board staff. He elaborated on the mandate of the committee, summarized the process involved at the committee level, described how the scenarios were developed and reviewed the factors considered that led to the final option and recommendation.

Mr. J. Duijvestein, parent representative on the Committee, gave a brief overview of the consultation process, reviewed the issues received on the comments sheets and elaborated on the responses.

In response to questions, Mr. Dephoure clarified issues relative to the areas impacted by the boundary review. B. Van de Vrande suggested revisions to two recommendations: one involving a word change to ensure that siblings be grandfathered under the current provisions and one involving the removal of the final recommendation as it is redundant and may lead to confusion since the Board always provides transportation in accordance with the Transportation Policy.

G. Corbacio, the Chair and trustees from Burlington thanked the Committee representatives for their hard work and dedication.

4.2 **Oakville Secondary Schools Boundary Review Committee’s Interim Report**

G. Corbacio introduced members of the Committee responsible for developing the interim school attendance boundary scenarios as a result of the Board direction to redirect students from areas in North Oakville to a proposed new St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School in South Oakville. The Committee reviewed twenty one (21) scenarios to date and the Committee presented its three (3) proposed options that will be presented to the community for their input and feedback on January 9, 2008.

B. White, parent representative spoke to the Committee’s mandate, elaborated on the process and the board criteria and provided information on the interim school attendance boundary scenarios. He summarized key issues raised during the consultation process. Trustees were also made aware that the redirection of approximately 400 students from Holy Trinity and Loyola is not feasible without significantly impacting on the Oakville elementary and secondary schools. Furthermore, the Board will most likely be asked to consider and approve an eight (8)

room classroom addition to Loyola to accommodate student growth as part of the Boundary Review. The Final Report on the Oakville Catholic Secondary Schools School Boundary Review, including recommendations, will be prepared following the public open house session. Following the meeting, the committee will review the feedback received and will prepare a Final Report for submission to trustees at the February 5, 2008 Board meeting. Trustees will receive delegations and consider the recommendations at the February 19th Board meeting.

Members of the committee responded to trustee questions and clarified a number of issues regarding some of the scenarios and issues relative to the areas impacted by the School boundary review.

In response to a question, staff indicated that all criteria established by the Board are equally taken into account in the review process.

Trustees from the Oakville area expressed their appreciation to the Committee, spoke to the process and assured concerned ratepayers that their feedback is being heard and that the Board will strive to achieve the best option in order to mitigate the impact.

The Chair called for a recess at 8:07 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:25 p.m.

5. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

6.1 **Regular Board Meeting – December 4, 2007**

# 17/08	<i>Moved by: P. Houlahan</i> <i>Seconded by: E. Viana</i>
RESOLVED , that the minutes of the December 4, 2007 Regular Board Meeting be approved as presented.	
CARRIED	

7. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

7.1 **Summary of Outstanding Items from Previous Meetings**

# 18/08	<i>Moved by: E. Viana</i> <i>Seconded by: R. Palmieri</i>
RESOLVED , that the summary of outstanding items from previous meetings be received as information.	
CARRIED	

8. **ACTION ITEMS**

8.1 **2006-2007 Draft Audited Financial Statements**

P. McMahon informed trustees that the 2006-2007 financial statements are the final culmination of the annual reporting cycle and confirmed that the forms were filed with the Ministry by the deadline date of December 14th in order to avoid cash flow penalties. P. McMahon highlighted key components of the report, specifically the impact of moving to PSAB reporting. He noted that the statements are compliant with all Ministry enveloping provisions and Section 231 of the Education Act. He further noted that in order to achieve a balanced year-end position, approximately \$1 million was transferred from the Classroom and approximately \$1 million from the Working Funds reserves.

# 19/08	<i>Moved by: E. Viana</i> <i>Seconded by: P. Houlahan</i>
RESOLVED , that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the attached 2006-2007 Draft Audited Financial Statements.	

P. McMahon and S. Zucker responded to questions regarding uncorrected audit differences. P. McMahon also commented on an incident regarding the use of school generated funds for the purchase of score boards. L. Clifford noted that the matter is currently before the courts.

The Chair called for a vote and the motion **CARRIED**.

The Chair moved to Item 8.7

8.7 **Book Review Committee Report – The Golden Compass**

R. MacDonald informed trustees that in accordance with the pertinent Board Policy, the Book Review Committee completed the book evaluation and convened on December 11, 2007 to discuss the material under reconsideration. The Committee recommended that the Golden Compass, be returned to school library shelves and placed in the Young Adult area of the school libraries. He noted that the committee discussed at length the Catholicity component and members felt the Religious education which students receive would allow them to make a distinction between the negative impressions of the author. The Committee also felt that many of the references were beyond the theological grasp of students.

20/08

Moved by: E. Viana

Seconded by: Father D. Wilhelm

RESOLVED, that based on the recommendation of the Book Review Committee that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the placement of the book, *The Golden Compass*, in the Young Adult area of the school libraries.

A number of trustees commented on the motion. Father D. Wilhelm spoke of the committee's rationale for keeping the book in circulation and provided his own personal viewpoint regarding the matter. He feared that banning the book would only add to the controversy surrounding it.

Trustee Matters appreciated the work and study by the Committee to undertake the review process, but expressed disappointment regarding the recommendation. She spoke against the recommendation as the book s clearly undermines the tenets of the Catholic Faith. In her opinion, the book does not adequately support the Board's mission statement nor its governing values.

A. Danko questioned the Board's Collection Policy and suggested a filtering process be considered. R. MacDonald briefly elaborated on the internal screening process. In response, A. Danko suggested the Board review its filtering process.

R. MacDonald reiterated that the books have received minimal interest and are under prescribed.

Following discussion, the Chair called for a vote and the motion was **DEFEATED**.

The following motion was presented by J. Matters:

21/08

Moved by: J. Matters

Seconded by: R. Palmieri

RESOLVED, that the book series by Philip Pullman, entitled "*His Dark Materials*" be removed from the libraries of the Halton Catholic District School Board.

Speaking to the rationale, J. Matters commented that the Phillip Pullman's trilogy of atheistic ideology carefully couched within the realm of fantasy for young readers is in direct opposition to the Mission Statement and Governing Values of the Board.

The Chair called for a vote and the motion **CARRIED**.

The Chair returned to Item 8.2.

8.2 2007-2008 Revised Budget Estimates

P. McMahon noted that the 2007-2008 Revised Budget Estimates were submitted to the Ministry on December 14th in order to avoid cash flow penalties. He briefly reviewed and commented on the changes from the original budget submitted to the Ministry in August 2007 and highlighted key components of the report.

22/08

Moved by: E. Viana

Seconded by: J. Matters

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School approve the 2007-2008 Revised Budget Estimates in the amount of \$238,264,276.

P. McMahon, in response to a question, explained that the transfer in and out of the reserve is a calculated number, not a plugged number. It is part of the adjustment that is required to move from compliance budget under the Education Act to PSAB.

The Chair called for a vote and the motion **CARRIED**.

8.3 Educational Assistants Appreciation Day

On behalf of the Board and the administration, A.A. LeMay commended all educational assistants for the important role which they serve and asked for trustees' support in approving the following motion:

23/08

Moved by: J. Matters

Seconded by: E. Viana

RESOLVED, the trustees of the Halton Catholic District School Board proclaim January 30, 2008 as Halton Catholic Educational Assistants' Appreciation Day and commend all of our Educational Assistants for their strong commitment, dedication and sensitivity, support a love of learning and curiosity in our students as they learn about the world and life around them.

The Chair called for a vote and the motion unanimously **CARRIED**.

The Director expressed his appreciation for trustees' ongoing support of this initiative. Materials proclaiming Catholic Education Assistants' Appreciation Day are being developed and will be distributed to the schools as well as a letter of congratulations to each Educational Assistants.

8.4 Artificial Turf Surface Sports Field

G. Corbacio briefly spoke to the motion and clarified that no additional comments had been received from trustees since the December 4th Board meeting. Staff will obtain an estimate for an artificial turf surface and for a premium grass turf sports field.

24/08

Moved by: B. Van de Vrande

Seconded by: E. Viana

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board direct staff to report back to trustees on the option of installing an artificial turf surface multi-use sports field at the new Corpus Christi Catholic Secondary School and,

That Board staff be directed to obtain competitive tendered quotations for a premium grass turf sports field and an artificial turf surface sports field for the new Corpus Christi Catholic Secondary School and,

That Board staff be directed to prepare and submit an Artificial Turf Surface - Incremental Initial Capital Cost Budget upon receipt and review of the two above noted tenders for Board consideration and approval prior to any decision on awarding the contract for one of the proposed sports fields.

***That** Board staff be authorized to submit for Site Plan approval to install sports field lighting at selected Board secondary school sites.*

G. Corbacio acknowledged, in response to a comment, that he undertake a cursory review of similar facilities from Hamilton to Mississauga, specifically facility use rates and hours of use.

The Chair called for a vote and the motion **CARRIED**.

8.5 **Assumption Secondary/Cumberland Park/St. Paul School – Sports Field & Running Track Project**

25/08

Moved by: B. Van de Vande

Seconded by: R. Palmieri

RESOLVED**, that staff be authorized to work collaboratively with the City of Burlington, the Cumberland Park neighbours and an independent site planner and facilitator to resolve the outstanding concerns of the Board, the City and neighbours regarding the proposed Assumption Secondary/Cumberland Park/St. Paul School Sports Field & Running Track Project and that the cost be shared equally with the City of Burlington to a maximum of 5000.00 as the Board's share. **CARRIED

8.6 **St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School**

G. Corbacio referenced the staff report that was presented at the last Board meeting which outlined the benefits of initiating the site plan application and consultation process for the proposed school.

26/08

Moved by: E. Viana

Seconded by: P. Houlahan

***RESOLVED**, that the Board staff be authorized to commence the Site Plan Application and consultation process for the proposed St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School Replacement Project and,*

That Salmona Tregunno Inc. be engaged to coordinate the necessary site plan issues and studies required by the Town of Oakville for the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School Replacement Projects; and

That a preliminary budget amount not to exceed \$100,000 be approved to complete the Site Plan Application and conduct a consultation process for the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School Replacement Project.

G. Corbacio, in response to questions and comments, assured trustees that moving ahead with the site plan does not presume a particular footprint for the building and elaborated in more details in terms of the benefits of proceeding with the site plan application. He explained that the shelf life of a similar site plan is approximately two years. He also acknowledged that there are risks involved in terms of cost implications in proceeding with the site plan but there are greater risks in delaying the project even further.

For the record, the Director emphasized that project financing sources for the estimated total project replacement costs have not yet been identified. The motion is simply to get preparatory work done, and it is not intended as an approval to proceed to build the school.

The Chair called for a vote and the motion **CARRIED**.

9. **STAFF REPORTS**

9.1 **Corpus Christi Catholic Secondary School Construction Report**

G. Corbacio confirmed that the Board is slightly ahead of schedule and is confident that the school will open as planned in September 2008.

9.2 Review of Board Purchasing Policy I-25

On April 10th, 2007 the Board had asked, in accordance with resolution #109/07, to bring back Purchasing Policy I-25 for review and associated procedures. P. McMahon acknowledged that there are no further updates or changes to be made to the policy. Trustees were reminded that the revisions were based on the current public sector purchasing procedures and are consistent with the School Board Expenditure Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education. He commented that staff was opened to suggestion from trustees.

9.3 Update Report on Proposed Plans on the Provisions of Progressive Discipline and Safety in Schools' Act

J. Langill provided trustees with an update relating to the implementation of the provisions of the Progressive Discipline and Safety in Schools' Act. He reported that the Safe Schools' Action Team (SSAT), which includes Trustees Houlahan and Matters, as well as other stakeholders, is responsible for developing and overseeing plans for the implementation of this initiative to commence February 1, 2008. He briefly reviewed some of the Sub-Committee's activities and status of same. A more detailed presentation will be made at the January 15th Board meeting. The Director re-iterated that the Board has received Ministry funding for implementing the changes to the Safe Schools initiative and that staff will be proceeding with implementing those positions as outlined on the chart (page 2 of the Staff Report).

10. INFORMATION ITEMS**10.1 Student Senate Update**

K. Medeiros provided an update on the activities, presentations made and issues discussed at the Student Senate Meeting.

10.2 Approved School Educational Field Trips**10.3 Capital Project Report**

In response to questions, P. McMahon acknowledged that any overage in Capital Projects envelope will be used for the two new schools and as a possible source of funding for other projects such as STA.

# 27/08	<i>Moved by: E. Viana</i>	
	<i>Seconded by: Father D. Wilhelm</i>	
RESOLVED, that items 10.1 to 10.3 be received as information.		CARRIED

11. CORRESPONDENCE**11.1 St. Joan of Arc School Catholic School Council Chair, Heidi Murray****11.2 Pope John Paul II Catholic School Council****11.3 Pope John Paul II Catholic School Council, Stephanie O'Keefe****11.4 Letter from St. Bernadette School Council**

# 28/08	<i>Moved by: Father D. Wilhelm</i>	
	<i>Seconded by: J. Matters</i>	
RESOLVED, that Correspondence Items 11.1 to 11.4 be received as information.		CARRIED

12. OPEN QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. T. McCormak posed a question to the Board of Trustees, in which the Chair responded that any children not in compliance with mandatory school uniform pilot project at St. Gabriel's due to their parent's decision will not be penalized from participating in any activity that involves the curriculum, education or program related activities. For the record, the Board's resolution on the mandatory school uniform pilot project does not provide for any exemptions to the uniform requirement. A.A. LeMay reiterated that the twelve days of Christmas is not an educational, curriculum activity but rather a uniform promotional activity. Mr. McCormak presented opposing arguments. B. Van de Vrande further commented that the Twelve Days of Christmas initiative is an encouragement and reward for those who are complying with the policy and it is appropriate that those participating are indeed in uniform.

13. **IN CAMERA**

The meeting moved in camera at 9:38 p.m. and reconvened at 10:18 p.m.

# 29/08	<i>Moved by: E. Viana</i> <i>Seconded by: P. Houlahan</i>
RESOLVED, that the meeting move in camera.	CARRIED

The following motions were adopted in camera:

IC - #10/08	<i>Moved by: B. Van de Vrande</i> <i>Seconded by: E. Viana</i>
RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the appointment of John Langill as Acting Superintendent of Education (School Services) to take effect from January 2, 2008 to December 31, 2008 and the appointment may be extended to the end of the 2008-2009 school year pending additional funding from the Ministry of Education for the School Effectiveness initiative.	

IC - # 11/08	<i>Moved by: E. Viana</i> <i>Seconded by: J. Matters</i>
RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board receive as information the appointment of Thomas Dunn to the position of Secondary School Principal effective February 1, 2008 and the appointment of Dwight Jonker to the position of Secondary School Vice Principal effective February 1, 2008 and the retirement of Carol Cowan effective June 30, 2008.	

14. **RESOLUTION re ABSENTEES**

There were no absentees.

15. **ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING PRAYER**

# 30/08	<i>Moved by: E. Viana</i> <i>Seconded by: Father D. Wilhelm</i>
RESOLVED, that the meeting adjourn.	CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m. with a closing prayer led by A. Danko.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

APPROVED:

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Secretary of the Board

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Chair